

review the Interior Department's budget request for the coming fiscal year. The Interior Secretary is always seated, front and center, at the main table in our hearing room ready to answer the myriad of questions coming from our subcommittee's members. And despite the sometimes obscure nature of the questions asked, the Secretary has always been able to offer a timely, if not credible, answer. That ability to respond is more often than not due to the fact that, seated immediately next to the Secretary, has been John Trezise and the fattest looseleaf binder any of us has ever seen. No matter what is asked, John has been able to reach into that book and almost instantly retrieve a figure or some other pithy explanation that nearly always seems to satisfy the inquiring Senator. It is a magical exercise that must be seen to be believed.

Mr. President, too often the word "bureaucrat" is used as a pejorative. But in the case of John Trezise, those of us on the Interior Subcommittee have come to learn that he exemplifies the best in civil service. And so I join Senator BURNS in saying to Mr. Trezise that he can be justly proud of his service to the American people and that we wish him and his family all the best in the coming years.

RETIREMENT OF MR. ANTHONY J. "TONY" ZAGAMI

Mr. INOUE. Mr. President, at the end of this year, a longtime employee of the Congress and the legislative branch will retire from Federal Service. On January 3, Anthony J. "Tony" Zagami will leave the U.S. Government Printing Office, having been the longest serving general counsel in the agencies history.

Tony Zagami began his career as a page in the U.S. Senate in the mid 1960s as I was completing my first term as a U.S. Senator from Hawaii. His late father, Dino, also served the U.S. Senate at that time as a member of the Official Reporters of Debates. I had the pleasure of knowing and working with both of the Zagami's during that period of time. Dino retired in 1972 as Tony's congressional career was just getting underway.

Tony held a number of positions on the Hill while pursuing an undergraduate and law degree. He spent a total of 25 years working for the Congress in positions ranging from Senate page to committee general counsel, before leaving in 1990 to become the general counsel for the Government Printing Office. As you know, the GPO is responsible for producing and distributing our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and other vital Government documents on a daily basis.

After 40 years of dedicated Government service, Tony Zagami has decided to move on to the next chapter of his life. As he ends a distinguished career, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Tony Zagami for his many

years of public service to our Nation and wish him and his family the very best in all future endeavors.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, at the end of this year, Anthony "Tony" Zagami will retire after 40 years of public service, including the last 16 years at the Government Printing Office, which publishes the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for all of us every day.

I first met Tony when I served in my first term in the Senate. He was working as a legislative assistant in the Democratic cloakroom. He spent 25 years working in the Congress, including general counsel to the Joint Committee on Printing.

In 1990, Tony left to become the general counsel at the Government Printing Office. When he retires it will be with the distinction of having been the agency's longest-serving general counsel.

As he moves on, I know all my colleagues join me in thanking him for his dedicated service, and wish him the best for the future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO PAIGE McPHERSON

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I recognize Paige McPherson of Sturgis, SD, for her success in the martial art of tae kwon do. Paige is considered one of the top female Tae Kwon Do fighters in the country in the 130- to 139-pound weight class.

Paige McPherson trains and teaches out of the Black Hawk tae kwon do center in Black Hawk, SD. She has successfully competed in tae kwon do tournaments at the national level and has secured a spot for the 2007 Senior National Team and Pan American Game Trials.

It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Paige McPherson on this special occasion and to wish her continued success in the years to come.●

SHIRLEY HILLS PRIMARY SCHOOL, MOUND, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Shirley Hills Primary School, in Mound, Minnesota, which recently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Shirley Hills Primary School is truly a model of educational success. The teaching staff believes wholeheartedly that all children can succeed, a philosophy that has led to performance rates that are among the best in the State. The learning environment values strong character in addition to academic achievement. In addition, the vibrant school community offers a preschool program, to help ensure a smooth transition to kindergarten.

Shirley Hills Primary School is particularly proud of its designation as a Minnesota five-star school, recognized for excellence by the Minnesota De-

partment of Education. The school recently received the Parent Involvement School of Excellence Award from the National PTA, recognizing its strong partnership with parents. The Westonka School District which includes Shirley Hills Primary School has also earned the What Parents Want Award, given by SchoolMatch, the Nation's largest school-selection consulting firm. The award was earned by fewer than 15 percent of the Nation's public school districts. The Westonka District was also 1 of 22 Minnesota school districts named academic outperformers by Standard & Poor's School Evaluation Services.

Shirley Hills Primary fosters the development of strong character by recognizing children for demonstrating responsibility, respect, and honesty. An all-school assembly every month includes the presentation of a trophy, given successively in due course to a child who has demonstrated one of these qualities. Shirley Hills pupils know that good character is lived out, in all areas of life; it is how they choose to live, not just how they behave in school.

In the belief that children can succeed better in the global economy when knowledgeable about other languages and cultures, Shirley Hills offers before- and after-school Spanish classes for kindergarten through fourth grade. The school district is also pursuing a secondary-level educational exchange program with China.

Shirley Hills' staff encourages families to expect great test scores but not to settle for that alone. The school proudly has high expectations for achievement and behavior, and just as proudly provides educational experiences that take into account the whole child. Teachers know each child's strengths and growth areas, and they work together with parents to help every child grow as a learner, as well as a valued human being.

Much of the credit for Shirley Hills Primary School's success belongs to its principal, Ann Swanson, and the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Shirley Hills Primary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where pupils can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and children at Shirley Hills Primary School should be very proud of their accomplishments!

I congratulate Shirley Hills Primary School in Mound for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

LAKE MARION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I wish to honor Lake Marion Elementary School, in Lakeville, MN, which recently earned an Award for Excellence

in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Lake Marion Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. Three factors that make the school particularly outstanding include: a high level of involvement by parents, innovative programs, and academic achievement.

Lake Marion Elementary School takes great pride in involving parents in their children's school experiences. Lake Marion's Parent Teacher Organization has provided volunteer and financial support for the Artist of the Month program, for which parent volunteers teach a class about an artist and his/her works; the Junior Great Books program; the Lake Marion Yearbook, which has set the standard for elementary school yearbooks; the fifth-grade trip to Camp Saint Croix Environment Camp; the school directory; Family Fun Night; cultural awareness programming; mini-grants for selected staff projects; and field trip transportation costs.

Lake Marion Elementary provides the children innovative programming outside the school day. Targeted Services offers additional reading and math support in classes which run before school and are very popular with the children and their families. Additional programs include before- and after-school athletics, art, and world languages.

The school's many successes are reflected in the pupils' outstanding academic accomplishments. Lake Marion Elementary School's Math Masters Teams have finished first two times, second four times, and third five times in Regional Math Masters competitions. In addition, Lake Marion Elementary has received a five-star rating from the Minnesota Department of Education in reading and math every year since the inception of the Minnesota School Report Card system.

Much of the credit for Lake Marion Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, John W. Braun, and the dedicated teachers. The pupils and staff at Lake Marion Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where pupils can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and children at Lake Marion Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments.

I congratulate Lake Marion Elementary School in Lakeville for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

ORCHARD LAKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, LAKEVILLE, MINNESOTA

● Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, today I honor Orchard Lake Elementary School, in Lakeville, MN, which re-

cently earned an Award for Excellence in Education for its exceptional and innovative achievements in educating children.

Orchard Lake Elementary School is truly a model of educational success. The staff at OLE, always seeking to improve professionally, value in-service days and use this time to study new and innovative teaching techniques. Every year the school does a book study that addresses ways to increase achievement for students. The teaching staff takes on new challenges, studies best-practice ideas, has conversations across grade levels, offers mutual support, and applies solutions.

In the spring of 2004, Orchard Lake Elementary was the first school in Minnesota to receive the Tekne Award for Innovations in Teaching. Mark Deming, the media specialist, had pupils in grades 5 and 6 arrive before school and called them the "Morning Crew." The children learned to design segments of school news, interview classmates and staff, and videotape and edit productions so that they could produce the morning announcements. In addition, they created their own music using the Garage Band program on the school computers. The morning announcements were shown over the school's media system and produced exclusively by children for all classrooms to enjoy. This system is still in place for use by fourth- and fifth-graders.

Orchard Lake Elementary teachers work with parents as partners in education. Five years ago, when space became a concern, the PTO purchased a portable computer lab. Last year, the PTO purchased 14 new computers and has entered Phase 2 of purchasing all new computers for the lab classroom. The PTO recently held a fund-raiser to purchase new playground equipment. OLE had a 99 percent parent-participation rate at parent-teacher conferences. The school has a gifted education program, as well as a targeted services program, which offers extra instruction in reading and math for struggling students. Involved parents support their children by working together with teachers, who value the parents' active contributions.

Orchard Lake Elementary provides a safe and nurturing environment, both educationally and emotionally. Teachers build relationships with pupils through a community circle and discussions of life skills. The children take part in student council, art shows, music concerts, morning announcements, band, and academic choice in the classroom.

Orchard Lake Elementary School was recognized by the State Department of Education as a five-star school in both math and reading. This distinction is particularly impressive, considering that Orchard Lake, which has a high concentration of low-income students, is a Title 1 school.

Much of the credit for Orchard Lake Elementary School's success belongs to its principal, Karen Roos, and the dedi-

cated teachers. The pupils and staff at Orchard Lake Elementary School understand that, in order to be successful, a school must go beyond achieving academic success; it must also provide a nurturing environment where pupils can develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes for success throughout life. All of the faculty, staff, and children at Orchard Lake Elementary School should be very proud of their accomplishments!

I congratulate Orchard Lake Elementary School in Lakeville for winning the Award for Excellence in Education and for its exceptional contributions to education in Minnesota.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and two withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 2:15 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Hays, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 395. An act to adjust the boundary of Lowell National Historical Park, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4742. An act to amend title 35, United States Code, to allow the Director of the Patent and Trademark Office to waive statutory provisions governing patents and trademarks in certain emergencies.

H.R. 5110. An act to facilitate the use for irrigation and other purposes of water produced in connection with development of energy resources.

H.R. 5466. An act to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Captain John Smith Chesapeake National Historic Trail.

H.R. 5666. An act to authorize early repayment of obligations to the Bureau of Reclamation within the A & B Irrigation District in the State of Idaho.

H.R. 6111. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that the Tax Court may review claims for equitable innocent spouse relief and to suspend the running on the period of limitations while such claims are pending.

H.R. 6316. An act to extend through December 31, 2008, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

H.R. 6338. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent and repress the misuse of the Red Crescent distinctive emblem and the Third Protocol (Red Crystal) distinctive emblem.